Patterson's force was then somewhat larger, but consisted in the main of three months' troops, whose term of service had nearly expired,[1]

To oppose a direct advance upon, Richmond, and at the same time to menace Washington, the Confederate authorities entrusted to General Beauregurd, to whose already excellent reputation the capture of Fort Sumter had added much renown, their principal army, known ufc that time as the Army of the Potomac/ which on the 21st of July comprised about 22?000 men, with 29 guns;[1] Thin force was Htationed on the Orange and Alexandria Kailroad, and protected Manassos Junction on that road, where a railway, coining from Front ..Royal in tint Shrnundoah Valley, connected with the main line to RiVhmond.

So long as this point was held, troopw could easily and speedily he transferred from the Valley to the vicinity of Washington, and ^*lee verna*. Ifc way, therefore, clearly of great importance to hold this position, if the two Confederate armies were to be united, either for an advance on Wnnhlngton or to resist an advance from Washington. BeauregarcPs front was covered l>y the ntream of Bull Run, which, although fordahle in many places y«*fc constituted a considerable obstacle to mi attacking force.

Although it was from the first plain to

every military man in Washington that the city wna exposed to the most imminent p^ril BO long *IM* Arlington

[1] 2 W. R., 187.

[2] These two armies w<TC Miiwctjucutly c<insoiiiiutr<! under the iiumenf the
Army of Northern Viryini;i. *l'hc* Krtlfntl Aruiy in Virginia (Itcii A.NhUined
the name of the Army of the Cot*mute*

[3] 2 W. R., 487.